



State of Wisconsin  
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

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## 2021 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 27

February 15, 2022 - Introduced by Representatives VOS and STEINEKE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** honoring Governor Tommy G. Thompson for his achievements and  
2             extraordinary service to the state and people of Wisconsin.

3             Whereas, Governor Tommy George Thompson has had a long and exceptional  
4     career in public service, serving in the Wisconsin Assembly, as governor, as secretary  
5     of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and most recently  
6     as interim president of the University of Wisconsin System; and

7             Whereas, Governor Thompson was born on November 19, 1941, in Elroy,  
8     Wisconsin, and remained there throughout his childhood; and

9             Whereas, Governor Thompson attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison,  
10    where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1963 and a juris doctor in 1966; and

11            Whereas, Governor Thompson began his career in public service in 1966, when  
12    he joined the Wisconsin National Guard and was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly  
13    at age 24; and

14            Whereas, Governor Thompson served in the Wisconsin National Guard for six  
15    years and served another four years in the Army Reserves; and

1           Whereas, during his first term in the Assembly, Governor Thompson was  
2 appointed to serve on the powerful Joint Committee on Finance; and

3           Whereas, throughout his 20 years in the Assembly, Governor Thompson served  
4 in other important leadership roles, including assistant minority leader and  
5 minority leader; and

6           Whereas, Governor Thompson was elected governor of Wisconsin in 1986, was  
7 re-elected an unprecedented three times, and served as governor for a total of 14  
8 years, making him the longest serving governor in Wisconsin history; and

9           Whereas, as governor, Governor Thompson was a pioneer in enacting  
10 innovative policies that served as national models, such as welfare reform and school  
11 choice; and

12           Whereas, while governor, Governor Thompson served in several leadership  
13 roles, including chair of the Amtrak Board of Directors and chairman of the National  
14 Governors Association; and

15           Whereas, Governor Thompson was appointed by President George W. Bush to  
16 serve as the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, a position he  
17 held from January 2001 until January 2005; and

18           Whereas, while Secretary of Health and Human Services, Governor Thompson  
19 was the first cabinet secretary on the ground in New York City following the 9/11  
20 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center; and

21           Whereas, as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Governor Thompson  
22 served as the chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and  
23 led several significant health initiatives, including expanding health insurance  
24 coverage to low-income Americans and strengthening the country's preparedness  
25 for bioterrorism attacks; and

